



U.S. Department of Justice

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TWO ROCKFORD MEN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE 150 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; RICHARD W. SANDERS, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration; ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; PAUL LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; DUANE E. WIRTH, Boone County Sheriff; STEVEN PUGH, Rockford Police Chief; JAN W. NOBLE, Belvidere Police Chief; and WILLIAM FEITHEN, DeKalb Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

Yesterday, United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced **MICHAEL FRICKS**, 34 (DOB: 10/09/1970), formerly of 6311 Forrest Hills Road, Rockford, Illinois, to 306 months in federal prison, without parole, for his role in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine and "crack" cocaine.

Fricks pleaded guilty on February 17, 2005. At the time of his guilty plea, Fricks admitted that between February 2002 and February 2004, he conspired with Jerry Wilson, Lonza Wilson, and others to distribute at least 150 kilograms of cocaine. Fricks acknowledged receiving the cocaine on credit, commonly referred to as "fronting" the drugs, selling the cocaine, and then paying his suppliers. According to the plea agreement, Fricks also instructed and assisted another individual in "cooking" over 500 grams of cocaine into crack cocaine and then selling the crack cocaine.

JERRY WILSON, 28 (DOB: 5/16/1977), formerly of 3854 Thyme, Rockford, Illinois, who pled guilty on May 28, 2005, to conspiring to distribute cocaine and cocaine base, was sentenced today for his role in the same conspiracy. Judge Reinhard sentenced Wilson to serve 160 months in federal prison without parole.

The indictment was the result of a nine-month investigation by the Rockford DEA Task Force consisting of law enforcement agents and officers from the DEA, the FBI, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the Rockford Police Department, the Boone County Sheriff's Department, the Belvidere Police Department, and the DeKalb Police Department. The Task Force seized eight kilograms of cocaine and one kilogram of heroin in connection with the investigation. Authorities also are seeking to forfeit assets valued at over \$300,000 under laws authorizing the seizure of properties used to conduct drug businesses or purchased with profits from those illegal businesses.

These cases are being prosecuted in United States District Court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

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